

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1969, December 15, 1956

## NICKY AND HIS PETS

Surrey schoolboy who has his own private zoo

From a Special Correspondent

"BEWARE of the dog" said the notice on the gate, but when it was first put there it really meant "Beware of Billy the Drake." Spot, the dog, is liable to grow irritable with children who push into the back garden of a Surrey cottage to see the private zoo of 13-year-old Nicholas Brooks. But he is nothing like as fierce as Billy used to be.

"Billy liked going for people's legs," Nicky told me. "Once he got hold of the back of my trousers and tugged and twisted; but the material was too strong for him to tear and in the end he pulled my trousers off."

Alas, poor Billy made the fatal mistake of trying to digest a piece of glass, but his companion, Fanny the Muscovy duck, remains hale and hearty. Fanny was given to Nicky six years ago by a farmer.

Nicky claims that he has no favourites and treats all his pets alike—but he seems to have a particularly soft spot for Fanny, who likes to perch on his shoulder and sometimes sit on his head.

In the garden part of his zoo are the hutches containing six rabbits—including a Flemish Giant and a Blue Persian—and four guinea pigs. Albino mice share quarters in a shed with a hamster.

The mice are comparative newcomers. They numbered three when Nicky got them from a friend a few months ago. He now has twenty-four.

### EXCHANGING PETS

"I think I like watching the mice best," said Nicky as they scampered over two cages, appearing through windows and doors of their house. "They're so quick and they get up to such antics."

Regretfully Nicky faces the fact that he will not be able to keep all the new arrivals, but he hopes to exchange some of them at a pet shop for a budgerigar to keep company the one he already has in a cage in the kitchen.

"She didn't mind being on her

own until I bought those two zebra finches," he said, pointing to the next cage. "I think seeing them together has made her feel lonely."

Having lost his parents when he was quite small, Nicky lives with his grandparents. And his grandmother certainly does not mind admitting that she was relieved when he let his slowworms, or legless lizards, and two grass snakes go to the nearby common to find their own winter quarters for hibernation.

### SNAKE IN THE CLASS

He caught both grass snakes himself, not with any forked stick but with his hands.

"You have to be quick," he admitted. "Dangerous? Oh no. You make sure they're not poisonous by looking at their colours."

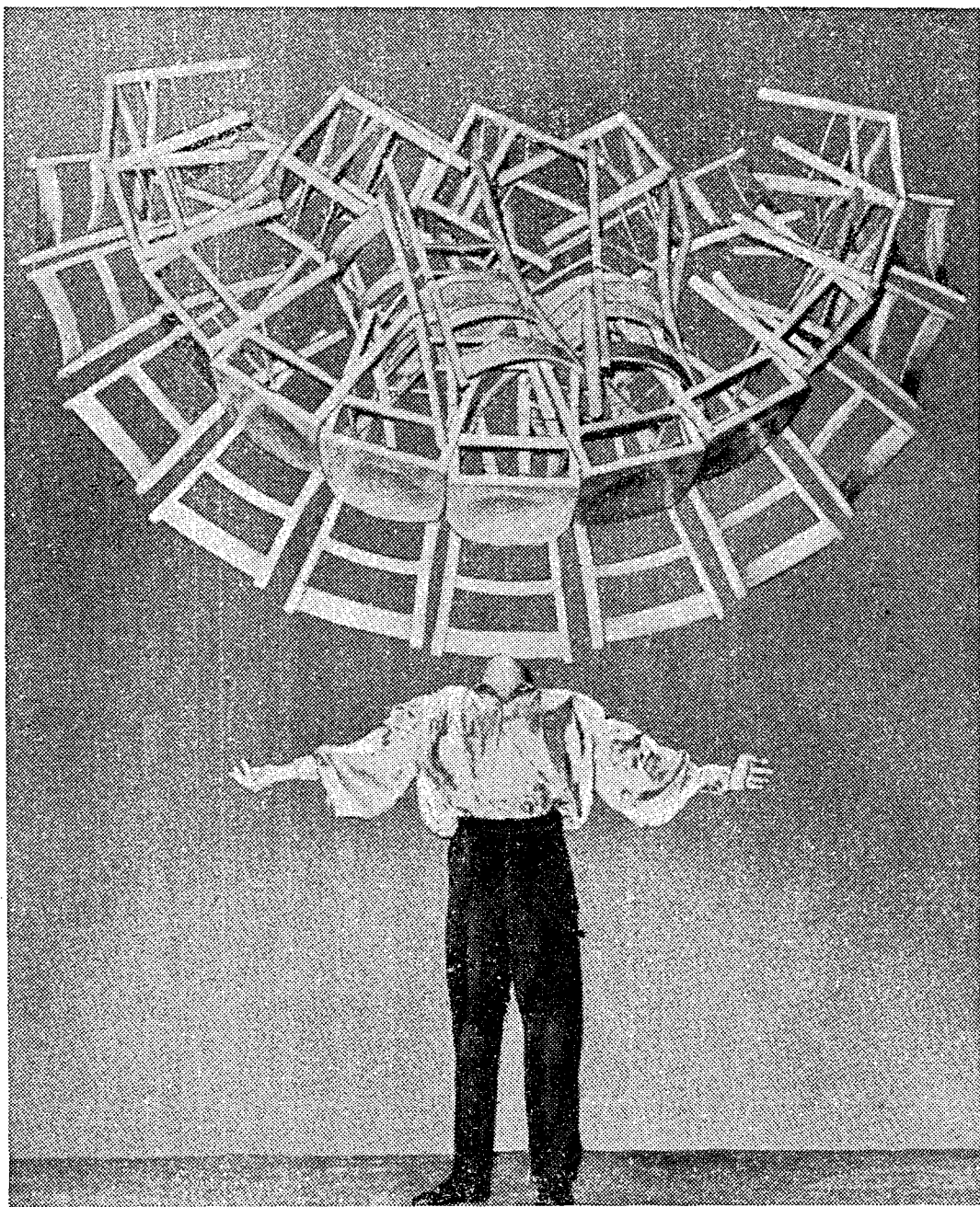
One snake was caught by the lake where he goes fishing. "He was very friendly," said Nicky. "He was three feet long, and liked curling round my waist. One day I took him to school like that, but in the woodwork class he didn't like the noise and slid down onto the floor."

Woodwork ended for that period, as the class chased excitedly after the snake.

"When I caught it at last," concluded Nicky, "the teacher gave me a wooden box to put it in, and told me he didn't want to see any more of my pets at school."

After that both snakes settled down in the cage Nicky made for them with sand and soil and rocks, following his policy of providing living conditions as natural as possible.

In the cottage, under the kitchen dresser, two tortoises had gone into hibernation for the winter in a box of straw. Nicky found one of them when a field



### 22 seats at the circus

This astonishing feat is one of the many bright attractions at Tom Arnold's Festival Circus at Harringay Arena which lasts from December 22 till January 26. The man holding all this weight between his teeth is Fred Lony from Latvia.

### SAILPLANE ADVENTURE

A glider pilot in New Zealand had a narrow escape from disaster, not long ago. Upward air currents swept up his sailplane through a thunderstorm at the rate of 1800 feet a minute to a height of nearly 15,000 feet.

Although he had difficulty in breathing at that altitude he succeeded in breaking clear of the storm, only to find that his controls were frozen. He dropped to within a few hundred feet above the airfield when the frozen controls freed themselves, and he was able to land safely.

### FLY AWAY, PIETER

Pietermaritzburg is a long name and road signs bearing it have to be so long that they are prey to strong winds. To overcome this trouble, officials of the Natal Roads Department are lopping off the Pieter, and calling the town just Maritzburg.

### FLYING FOR FIVE DAYS NON-STOP

Early next year five U.S. airmen will climb into a plane, "take-off," and settle down for a non-stop flight of five days.

Conditions will be similar to those anticipated in an atom-powered aircraft—with one difference. The "flight" will be made in a wingless fuselage mounted a few feet above the ground.

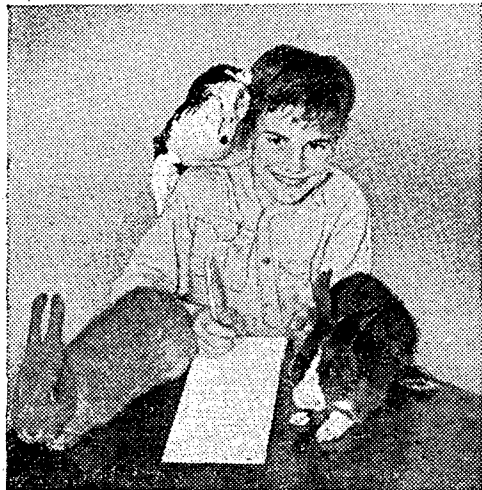
Even so, except for off-duty spells, every member of the crew must be at the alert for the whole of the five days, for the electronic simulator they will be flying reacts in exactly the same way that a real plane would.

The purpose of the experiment is to test a crew's reaction to the

marathon trips that can be expected in atom-powered planes. The U.S.A.F. want to know how long airmen can be expected to perform their jobs efficiently; how much they must eat and drink; how much sleep they need; how they will react to living and working together in confined quarters over a long period of time.

During the whole of the five days the crew will be photographed, watched by two closed-circuit television cameras, and even their conversations will be recorded.

During off-duty spells individual crew members can rest and eat in the nose of the plane.



Nicky with just a few of his pets, including Fanny the duck, who likes to sit on his shoulder

Continued on page 2





### Old chairs to mend

Chairs with cane seats are becoming a rarity now and the travelling craftsmen who used to walk the streets offering to mend them are dying out. One of the last of them was seen recently at Cheltenham plying his trade by the kerbside. He goes all over the country.

## GIFT FROM A GARDENER'S BOY

When Mr. F. Bramley was a boy in Darlington, County Durham, he worked for two years fetching the coals, cleaning the knives and tending the gardens at the Training College. Now, 57 years later, he is secretary of the Canadian Pacific Railway. But he has not forgotten his days as odd-job boy, and recently sent 50 guineas to the building fund for Darlington Training College—in memory of his own modest start in life.

Recalling those days, he writes: "It was unusual for any student to have anything to say to me, but sometimes when I was in the garden I would be given a much appreciated smile, which only goes to confirm how much better it is to smile than to frown."

On one occasion, he recalls, the principal of the college went off to the railway station for the family's summer holidays, leaving behind his bag of golf clubs. Young Bramley was quick on his feet, and was able to reach the

station with the missing golf bag before his employer got there by horse cab.

During the First World War Mr. Bramley returned to the college on a visit to old friends. This time, however, he wore not the garden boy's apron, but the uniform of a British staff officer.

It is interesting, too, to learn that although he has worked for his living since his 13th birthday, he can still say, "My somewhat long hours of work at Darlington Training College never did me the slightest harm."

### MUSIC HATH CHARMS

At a farm near Haywards Heath, Sussex, thousands of hens are regularly entertained with music from the radio. It seems that the noise of low-flying jet aircraft had had a bad effect on egg supplies. Since they have been able to listen to the wireless the hens have paid no attention to the aircraft, and are laying merrily.

## NICKY AND HIS PETS

Continued from page 1

was being reaped; the other he bought for two shillings. "I thought it would be warmer for them there, than burying themselves in the garden," he explained. "The frost goes down very deep."

Three aquariums complete this remarkable schoolboy zoo: the outdoor one has minnows and pond life, including the larva of a dragonfly which he proudly fished out of the tank to show me. The chief indoor aquarium, full of goldfish, carp, and many tropical varieties, is in the sitting room. And the third one, containing his three amphibious terrapins, is in Nicky's bedroom.

This room reflects Nicky's personality. His fishing rod is in a corner. A framed print of the famous "Boyhood of Raleigh" picture showing two boys sitting spellbound by the tales of an old sailor hangs on the wall. The

books at his bedside are on wild life, animals, and birds. And prominent are Nicky's own scrapbooks pasted with natural history pictures and notes.

"We don't do 'Nature at school,'" says Nicky a trifle sadly. All the lore of sky and wood and stream that is now so familiar to him, has been self-taught from books with help from grandfather and friendly country-folk.

To pay for the bran, and oats for the rabbits, the fish food, and the bird seed, Nicky does a newspaper round. But as far as possible he collects as much natural diet as he can—hawthorn berries and acorns for the mice, corn for the birds, hatchings of blowflies and beetles for the snakes.

As might be expected, Nicky's one ambition is to work in a zoo or a game reserve when he leaves school—"anything to do with animals and the open air."



By the C.N. Press Gallery Correspondent

A BILL now before Parliament proposes to reorganise our electricity industry. It is a step towards the day when all our electrical power is produced by nuclear methods.

Calder Hall, the first nuclear power station, has been opened. But under present plans it will be ten years before power is generated substantially by "the atom."

A nuclear power station costs three times as much as a "conventional" power station getting its energy from coal or oil.

The blocking of the Suez Canal and other events in the Middle East gave a sharp warning that we cannot indefinitely depend on having all the oil we want.

Coal production is not likely to go up enough, and we can only use water-power in our limited mountainous areas.

So, power being vital to British industry, the Government will press forward with their nuclear power programme. In time to come this will fit into the story of how we islanders have been driven to amazing scientific efforts by sheer necessity.

STARLINGS are amusing birds, but we can have too many of them. A reference to their activities in Birmingham was made in C.N. the other week; and it would appear that they are just as great a nuisance in Central London.

As dusk falls thousands of starlings gather on the ledges of the chief public buildings in Whitehall and around Trafalgar Square.

The combined twittering of these dark clouds of birds rises above the roar of the traffic. The visitor to London is entranced by it all, and would probably protest loudly if any harm were done to the starlings.

Nevertheless, they foul the monuments, buildings, and pavements, and great official efforts have been made to drive them away into the countryside where they belong. But they will not go!

Experiments with a loudspeaker device—designed to scare the birds off—are continuing. But Mr. Buchan-Hepburn, who as Minister of Works is responsible for maintaining public buildings, says it would cost too much to fit every building with an electrical "scare-crow."

Nor does he think much of the idea of "importing" sparrow-hawks and owls to scare the starlings. "Even if they were stuffed," he told the Commons the other day, "I think the starlings would get used to them quite soon."

We might wonder if some future historian, describing our present troubles in the world, may mention that, in the midst of them, the House of Commons could still find time to discuss the menace of starlings.

## News from Everywhere

Father Christmas will arrive by helicopter at a party for 300 orphans at the U.S. Air Force base at Shaftesbury, Dorset.

The National Cat Club is holding its Diamond Jubilee Show at the National Hall, Olympia, on Saturday. Over 500 pedigrees, including curly-coated cats, lilac cats, and red-pointed Siamese, will be on view.

### GIANT ICEBERG

An iceberg 208 miles long and 60 miles wide has been sighted in the Antarctic by an American naval ice-breaker.

Fourteen-year-old Louis Peart landed an 18 lb. cod after dark on Whitby East Pier. Sold to a local fish merchant, it brought him some extra pocket money.

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Children's Opera Group Singers, directed by Margaret John, are giving a Christmas Concert in the Wigmore Hall, London, on Saturday, at 3 p.m. The programme includes a musical fairy tale and carols arranged by Leslie Woodgate.

A six-foot-long boa constrictor which escaped from a suitcase at Nice railway station was captured three months later. It was found warming itself in front of the station boiler.

Liverpool's overhead dock railway is to close at the end of the year.

A sergeant of the U.S.A.F. has made the world's first parachute jump over the South Pole. He was carrying spares for a vehicle at the U.S. Navy base there.

A plaque has been unveiled in Mr. Eisenhower's wartime headquarters at Bushey Park, Middlesex. It is inscribed: A great man passed this way in the defence of freedom.

### On duty



Wren Audrey Disbury marshals taxiing aircraft at the Royal Naval Air Station at Lee-on-Solent. Audrey is a cricketer in her spare time and has been picked for the English Women's Team to tour Australia in 1957.

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The Children's Newspaper, December 15, 1956

## SEEKING THE LUTINE'S GOLD

A fortune in gold bars and silver coins has lain in the wreck of the British frigate Lutine off the Dutch coast ever since 1799. So far there have been nine attempts to raise the bullion and £100,000 worth has been recovered. But the treasure is estimated at £2,000,000, so another attempt is to be made next year.

The ship's bell was recovered by an expedition nearly a century ago, and now, as the famous Lutine Bell, hangs in the underwriters' room at Lloyd's in London and is rung before important shipping announcements are made.

## STARTING THE EXHIBITION

A button was pressed the other day in a conference room in London's Whitehall to start a bulldozer's engine in Brussels, 218 miles away. And those in the room at Whitehall heard it all. A bell rang, the engine started, and the bulldozer went to work.

That was what happened when Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, President of the Board of Trade, took part in the start of work on the site of the British pavilion at the Brussels Exhibition to be held in 1958. He pressed the button in London and work began in Brussels.

## DAFFODIL COMPETITION

About 100,000 bulbs are to be grown by London schoolchildren for their spring daffodil competition, sponsored by the London Flower Lovers' League.

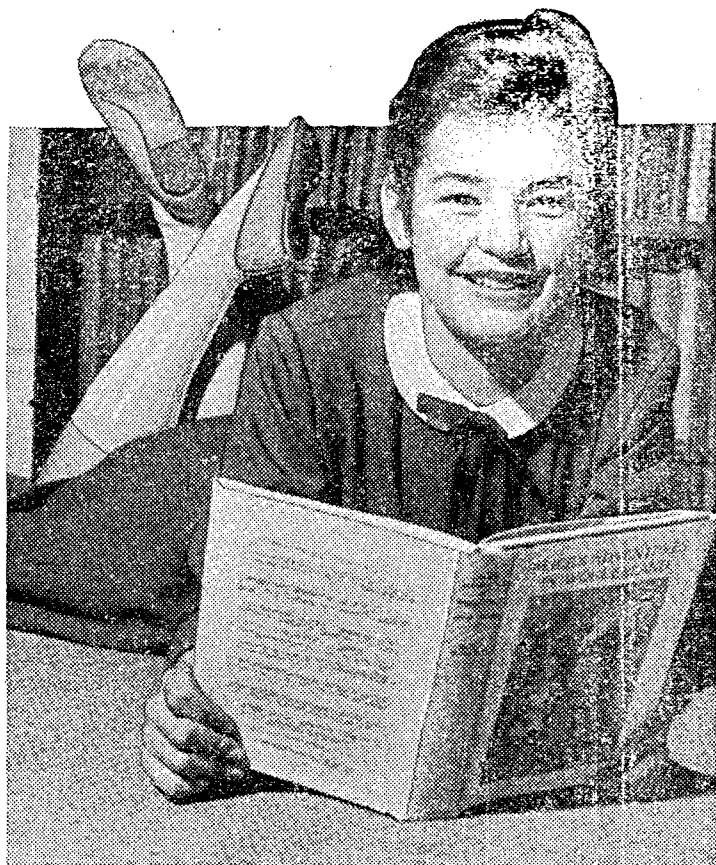
Bulbs have been sorted at the rate of 20,000 a week to make sure that each child gets a good sound plant to grow. They are then packed into lots of 50 for despatch to the schools.

The competition started in 1946, when there were only a few hundred entries.

## SKI-ING ON LAKE WINDERMERE

Towed by a motor boat, Mr. Alan Crompton was towed round and round Lake Windermere on water-skis the other day, altogether covering 240 miles in just under eight hours.

It was a trial run, for Mr. Crompton, who is captain of the British Olympic snow-ski team, is planning to water-ski 360 miles across the North Sea next year.



## Mandy in Wonderland

This is Mandy Miller, who is to play the title rôle in the production of Alice in Wonderland which starts a four-week season at Chelsea Palace Theatre on Boxing Day.

She is the girl who so movingly played the part of the deaf child in the film Mandy five years ago; but this will be her first appearance on the stage.

She is not unduly nervous, however, for she knows there will be a cast of well-known and experienced actors there to help her, and there can be little doubt that Alice in Wonderland is likely to be one of the most popular of all the Christmas shows in London.

## PREHISTORIC SPADES

Some pieces of waterlogged wood with shaped ends, thought to be digging sticks, or primitive spades used by Africans 36,000 years ago, have been found in Northern Rhodesia. They are thought to be the oldest wooden agricultural implements found anywhere in the world, and are not unlike the sticks still used by Australian Aborigines for digging up roots.

They have been flown to London where they will be treated with preservative.

## PLENTY OF PIE

A giant apple pie, 15 feet by six, was eaten during the Leeds English Apple Week.

Apples from different parts of the country were baked in seven trays by the Leeds firm which made the pie.

## MASTERPIECE FOR £75

A few weeks ago a painting of the Crucifixion was bought for £75 in a second-hand furniture shop at Oxford. It has now been sold to a New York art dealer—for £15,000!

It turned out to have been painted by Hendrick Ter Bruyghen who worked at Utrecht, Holland, and died there in 1629, and was described by Rubens himself as the finest Dutch painter of his time. There is a picture of Ter Bruyghen's, Jacob and Laban, in the National Gallery.

## TREASURE FOR TRAIN-SPOTTERS

Among models on view in a new exhibition at Euston Station are the locomotive Wildfire, built by George Stephenson in 1837, the cross-Channel paddle-steamer Mary Beatrice of 1882, and Shillibeer's first London bus of 1829. Called Transport Treasures, this exhibition at the great London station contains many other items of historic interest. Admission costs 6d.

## WARM HANDS FOR ANGLERS

A fishing rod with a heated handle is a new device likely to be welcomed by angling enthusiasts who head for the brook or wind-swept pier whatever the weather.

The handle contains a wick and a special slow-burning fuel, and stays warm from three to seven hours depending on the height of the wick.

## RHYME TIME

There can never have been a child who did not like Nursery Rhymes; they are a stepping-stone to the Realms of Gold we call Poetry, and some of them are remembered long, long years after toys have been set aside and forgotten.

One of the best collections, Nursery Rhymes for Certain Times, has been published in a handsome new edition by Faber & Faber at 15s. And we doubt if among all the wonderful offerings now in the bookshops there is any book more certain to please the very young.

Mary is here with her little lamb, and little Bo-Peep without her sheep; little Tommy Tucker still sings for his supper, and the Lion and the Unicorn still fight for the crown.

They are all here, with about 150 other immortals, to "free the fancy, charm tongue and ear," as the late Walter de la Mare has written in a delightful Introduction. And all are here with little pictures which add colour and fun in just the right way.

Nursery Rhymes for Certain Times is a passport to an enchanted land.

## BACK TO STEAM

A society which owns and runs 18 old steam traction engines as a hobby has offered them to haulage contractors.

These old steam-engines are said to be in perfect running order and might well do the work of lorries while petrol is rationed.

## CHILDREN'S FARM

Edinburgh Zoo is to have a miniature farm for children, complete even to a tiny pond with ducklings.

It will have farmyard, cowshed, pigsty, chicken-run, cart-shed, stables, and harness room. Lambs, kids, and calves will browse in little herds, and tiny bottles of milk will be provided for children to feed the lambs.

This farm is also to have a corn stack—including even the rats and mice which regularly make their home in such a refuge. But it will have windows all round through which the children can watch the inmates playing.

There is no doubt that Edinburgh children will have a great deal of fun on their little farm which will be ready by next June.

## Basketful



When two wire-haired competitors went to the Dachshund Show in London recently, they did so in a comfortable shopping basket.

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## Cry baby

Anthony Gray sent in this lifelike study of a baby's head to the Society of Portrait Sculptors' Show at the Imperial Institute, London. The actual title of this sculpture is Laurence Andrew Wilde Protests.



# SEVEN CHOIRS AND SEVEN CAROLS

HUNDREDS of schoolchildren in all seven Regions of the BBC are taking part next Sunday in a radio Festival of Seven Carols. This is the first time that Children's Hour has linked up for carol-singing region by region, and the joyous climax will come with each choir contributing a verse of O Come, All Ye Faithful, the final verse sung by all.

The choirs and regions are:

Loughton County High School for Girls (London); Fairfield Grammar School, Bristol (West); Chetham's Hospital, Manchester (North); George Dixon Grammar School, Birmingham (Midland); Howell's School, Denby (Welsh); Presbyterian Church School, Cregagh (Northern Ireland); Scottish Junior Singers (Scottish).

Some of the carols will have a special local significance, like the Coventry Carol from the Midlands, and All Poor Men and Humble, from Wales, sung partly in the original Welsh.

Loud-speaker systems are being installed so that each choir can hear all the others.



Choirboys of the 17th-century Chetham's Hospital, the historic school in the heart of Manchester

## Vessel with four lives

WATCHING the exciting Buccaneers series on Saturday evenings on A.T.V., you may have wondered whether Skipper Dan Tempest (Robert Shaw), Lieut. Beamish (Peter Hammond) and the other doughty characters invariably go to sea for film shots which are taken on board the good ship Sultana.

The answer, of course, is No. The Sultana is a real ship, now lying at Falmouth, but the cast sail in her only rarely. A realistic, full-size replica has been built at Twickenham studios for all the close shots. Our picture of Hazel Court (complete with beard!), Robert Shaw, and Denis Lacey, was taken at Twickenham during the shooting of one of the films in the series.

The galleon at Falmouth, now 70 years old, started as a chug-

ging little coal trader called Rylands. In recent years she has been transformed three times in her new career as a star of screen and television films.

Walt Disney converted her into the Hispaniola for Treasure Island. Then she became the Pequod in Moby Dick. Now, far more beautiful than in her working life, she has blossomed out as a billowing-sailed 18th-century vessel reconstructed from blueprints of the period which nautical adviser Peter Woods found in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich.

Sultana weighs just under 200 tons. Her mast is 76 feet high and she carries traditional rigging—topsail and topgallant on the fore and main mast, Latin mizzen and square sail on the mizzen mast.



## Story of Holy Night

IN a small tin workshop behind the Lime Grove studios Gordon Murray recently completed a set of puppets, including three mice, specially for next Sunday's Puppet Theatre play in BBC Children's T.V. Written by Freda Lingstrom, it is called Holy Night, Silent Night, and tells the story of how this old carol came into existence.

Rod puppets are being used, rather like the Toy Town types, but more rounded. Andrew Brownfoot has designed the scenery and costumes.

## School visit

YOU can guess what excitement there will be at Sherborne School for Girls next Friday. BBC television cameras are going there for a live broadcast, and Hywel Davies will be the guide. The little Dorset town is the home of two famous public schools—the boys', which is of ancient foundation, and the girls', founded in 1899.

Viewers will meet the headmistress, Miss. Diana Reader-Harris, the head girl, Mary Scott, who is in her last term and many other girls and members of the staff. There will also be films showing games fields, classrooms, and laboratories.

## Will man reach the Moon?

TICKET to the Moon is the ambitious title for a series of weekly recorded discussions on Space Travel starting in the Light Programme next Saturday afternoon. Peter Scott will be heard cross-examining astronautical experts on: How Do We Go?; Where Do We Go?; and What Sort of Power?

ERNEST THOMSON

## IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

### French King accused

DECEMBER 11, 1792. PARIS —King Louis XVI of France, now in prison, was today faced with a list of accusations made against him by the leaders of the Revolution.

After four months of captivity King Louis was suddenly brought before his judges but he faced them calmly amid a storm of slander and insult.

He was confronted with a list of charges which had not been previously shown to him. He made no attempt to question the lawfulness of this and to most of the charges he gave a simple denial.

The main points before the Court are that he made plots against France, he paid wages to foreign bodyguards, he bought up corn, so creating a monopoly, and he attempted to upset the constitution of his kingdom.

The King asked for lawyers to defend him, and chose two advocates: M. Target and M. Tronchet. The former declined, but a M. Malherbes volunteered to work with M. Tronchet in the King's defence.

Today's event at least shows that the Assembly has decided against the bloodthirsty policy of the extremist leader, M. Robespierre, who earlier this month declared in a speech that there was no need for a trial and that Louis should be executed out of hand as a matter of political expediency.

After the King and his family had been imprisoned last August the Legislative Assembly "suspended royalty," and in September the Convention declared it abolished.

(Louis was sentenced to death and executed a month later.)

### India's new capital

DECEMBER 12, 1911. DELHI —Seated on a magnificent throne amid scenes of pageantry in which the splendour of East and West were mingled, His Majesty King George V today addressed a cheering throng which included many Indian princes.

This Coronation Durbar at Delhi is the supreme occasion of the visit to India by King George and his consort, Queen Mary. The King and Queen made their state entry into the ancient Mogul capital four days ago. Thousands of Indians have flocked from near and far to witness the great pageant and see their King-Emperor.

The great occasion has been marked by an important change in the administration of India. The Government is to be transferred from Calcutta, the historic city in Bengal, to this traditional capital of Delhi and a new imperial city is to be built here. Delhi has the advantage of being in the heart of India, thus having strategic and political advantages.

The announcement of this bold change was greeted today with excitement and surprise. It is welcomed by the Mohammedan section of the populace.

But Bengal is not happy at the change, despite promised compensation.

### New land discovered

DECEMBER 14, 1642. BATAVIA, EAST INDIES—A "high mountainous country" never seen by Europeans before has been sighted by the Dutch navigator, Abel Tasman.

Last night, at sunset, the crew of his exploring craft, the Heemskirk, saw mountains ahead of them in the light of a radiant evening. As night fell the Heemskirk and its companion boat, Zeehan, decided to anchor off shore.

Tasman left Batavia four months ago to explore the Polar continent which his fellow-countrymen Schouten and Le Maire claimed to have discovered. Tasman now believes that the new land he has discovered is part of a great southern continent.

(The land he had found was New Zealand, and when he landed three days later he was attacked by Maoris. On this expedition he also discovered the island that is named after him, Tasmania.)

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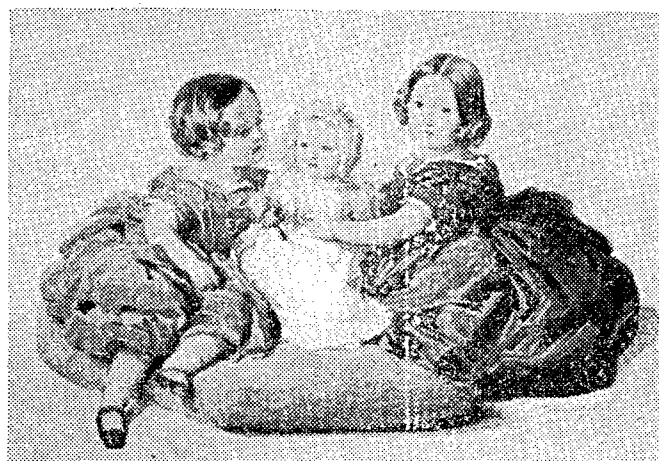
Teacher's Name .....  
Address .....  
DS/CN 17



# BRITISH PORTRAITS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY



Virginia Graham, by Ambrose McEvoy, A.R.A.



Prince Alfred and Princesses Alice and Helena (children of Queen Victoria), by Franz Winterhalter



The Artist's daughter, by John Jackson, R.A.



The Marquess of Lorn, by John Opie, R.A.



The daughters of Dean Liddell, by Sir William Richmond, R.A.



Child with a Dog, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, P.R.A.



Lord Willoughby de Broke and his family, by Johann Zoffany, R.A.



The Shudi Family, by an unknown artist

The Royal Academy is now holding a wonderful winter exhibition of British Portraits at Burlington House, London, until March 3. It brings together pictures scattered among many galleries or in private hands and one of the latter is the charming picture of Alice Liddell, the original Alice in Wonderland, with her sisters, painted when they were living near Llandudno. The artist used the sunlit rocks of Great Orme's Head as a background. Alice (on the right) looks much prettier than she does in the book illustrations, and is wearing an apple-green skirt. Two other family groups especially catch

the eye. One is of the breakfast room at Compton Verney, the Warwickshire home of Lord Willoughby de Broke and his family, who are just sitting down to their meal. The other shows Burkat Shudi, famous Swiss harpsichord maker, tuning one of his instruments while young Joshua and even younger Burkat junior keep as quiet as they can. The quizzical expression of little Virginia Graham suggest the contributor to Punch which she was one day to become; and there is a happy portrait by John Jackson (1778-1831) of his daughter trying not to laugh in a pair of truly enormous clogs.

Our pictures are reproduced by courtesy of the Royal Academy of Arts



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars . London . EC4  
DECEMBER 15 ..... 1956

## LOOK BACK IN PRIDE

Now that "the tumult and the shouting" is over, we can in calmer spirit look back on Britain's achievement in the Olympic Games. And it was no mean achievement.

There were disappointments, of course, though not as calamitous as some sports writers would have us believe; but there were also heart-warming successes.

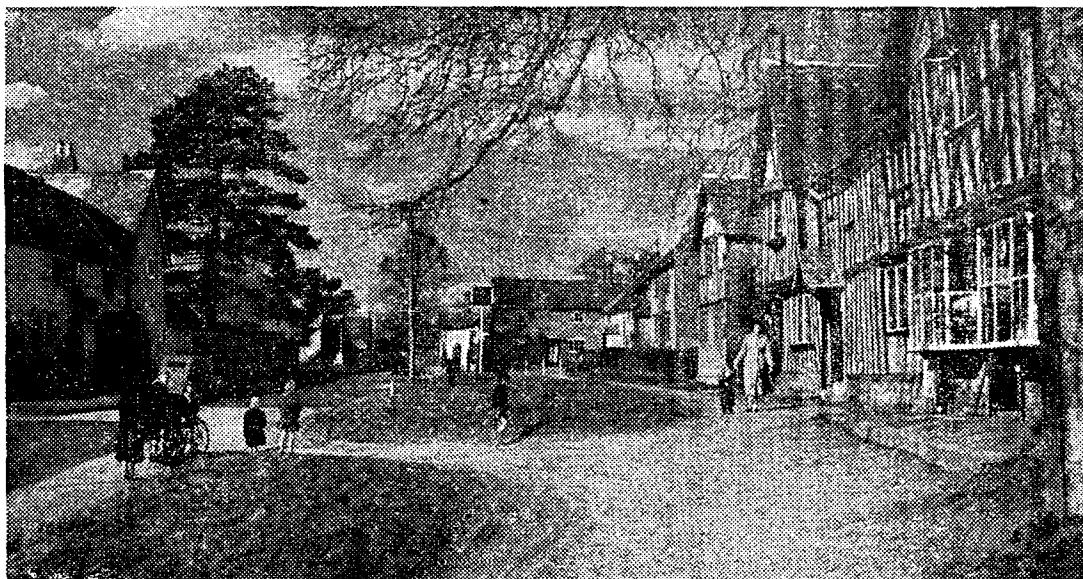
Indeed, we all felt the warmth from the Olympic flame in Melbourne's stadium when the news of Chris Brasher's victory reached us.

The first individual British track success since 1932, it was also a story-book one of struggle and triumph, followed by bitter disappointment and agonising suspense, and crowned by an almost unbelievable happy ending.

Other victories followed, and all in all this was our most successful Olympiad for many years.

Writing in the CN before the Games started, our athletics team manager, Jack Crump, summed up the chances of British competitors against the most powerful opposition ever encountered in these Games. "Succeed they will," he wrote, "if they gain a place in the first six of any Olympic event."

Now the Games have ended it can be seen that the British competitors acquitted themselves magnificently: on their achievement we can look back in pride.



**OUR HOMELAND**

A spacious street with half-timbered houses in the Berkshire village of East Hendred

# The Editor's Table

## BASIC NEEDS

EMERGENCIES bring strange needs to light. In a London post-office the other day a young woman applied for a petrol ration, not for a vehicle, but for her fire-eating act in a circus.

Bewildered, the girl clerk thumbed through the petrol rationing regulations. She remembered the golden Civil Service rule: "In dealing with a member of the public, try to put yourself in the place of the other person."

But the rule was no help in this case; nor were the regulations. So the whole matter was referred, on a form, to the Regional Petroleum Officer. He, doubtless, can take such problems in his stride.

## Think on These Things

THE prophets of whom we read in the Old Testament often used homely terms.

The prophet, Amos, for instance, spoke of God as setting a plumb-line in the midst of his own people. "Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will not again pass by them any more" (Amos 7. 8).

Amos meant that God had set up a standard for His people, and that standard was one of righteousness, and by it they would be judged. Amos reminded the people that because God is righteous He cannot ignore or pass over wickedness and wrong-doing. They cannot be passed over or treated lightly, for this is God's world, and goodness in the end must triumph.

Amos emphasised the great truth that it is righteousness that makes a nation great. It is not power, majesty, and might—it is goodness and truth. O. R. C.

## JUST AN IDEA

As Robert Herrick wrote:  
Attempt the end, and never stand in doubt;  
Nothing's so hard but search will find it out.

## Thank you, nurses

WE heard the other day of a girl who said that she would like to take up nursing as a career but that the money was not good enough.

Everyone who has been in hospital knows that if nurses received anything like the true value of their services they would be among the best-paid of all workers. Wages have been improved in recent years, but the truth is that the value of their work cannot be measured in terms of money.

Recruits to the nursing profession are girls who seek, not high wages, but the chance to serve their fellow creatures, and find their chief reward in this service.

Because there are never enough of them, they have hours of duty that would horrify many other workers. Even in the most trying circumstances they always manage to keep cheerful. Come what may, they tackle their task of relieving suffering with a zest that is an example and inspiration to ordinary mortals.

God bless them all!

## Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper,  
December 18, 1926

LORD BALFOUR has been bidding God speed to the Duke of York on his visit to Australia, and this is what he said of the new thing that has come about in the British Empire.

The new thing was not that there was no control of the self-governing Dominions by the Mother Country; the new truth was that the self-governing portions of the British Empire now regarded themselves as elements in a great unity which did not depend on control, but did depend on common ideals and common beliefs.

For the first time we had now announced to all the world that we were an Empire of which the self-governing portions were united by something much greater and much more sublime than control.

## THEY SAY . . .

AFTER-DINNER speaking should be like oil-prospecting. If you don't make a strike, stop boring.  
*Sir Miles Thomas*

I HAVE seen men completely exhausted at the end of an eight-hour day by the exertions of avoiding work.

*Mr. A. J. Speakman, of the British Productivity Council*

THE older I get the more convinced I am that the one vital need which everyone has in this world is for a right understanding of the love of God.

*Rev. W. J. Jenner, vicar of St. George's Church, Southall, Middlesex*

ART students should learn from the past by studying its traditions before trying to create new ideas on canvas.

*Director of the Birmingham Art Gallery and Museum*

## QUIZ CORNER

1. What is the real name of the so-called "black beetle"?
2. How many sheets of writing-paper make a quire?
3. What is a ducking-stool?
4. What does the boll-weevil attack?
5. In whose epitaph do these words occur: "They buried him among the kings because he had done good toward God and toward his house"?
6. Who was Gloriana?

Answers on page 12

## Out and About

A HEDGEROW made up mostly of holly brightened one side of the old country churchyard with scarlet berries a week ago. Now the brightness has gone. It is without berries, and most of the branches on top have been roughly hacked off for the sellers of Christmas decorations.

Looking sadly at this damage we notice in the shelter of the hedge some rose bushes carrying a few half-opened blooms, and buds which, with enough mild and sunny hours, could still grow. Also inside the pretty churchyard were purple and yellow heartsease blooms among the patches of the plant that had spread by itself.

Even a few dandelions in bloom were cheering, and several small plants of wild violet with unopened buds made us resolve to return on the next fine day, in spite of the damaged holly.

C. D. D.

## THE MERRY HEART

MIRTH is like a flash of lightning, that breaks through a gloom of clouds and glitters for a moment; cheerfulness keeps up a kind of daylight in the mind, and fills it with a steady and perpetual serenity.

Addison

The Children's Newspaper, December 15, 1956

## Next Week's Birthdays

### December 16

Jane Austen (1775-1817). Novelist. A country parson's daughter with a wonderful gift for observing other people. From the only life she knew, the country towns and villages of 18th-century England, she produced some masterpieces of character-drawing, especially in *Pride and Prejudice*.



### December 17

Prince Rupert (1619-1682). Dashing cavalry leader of the Civil War who rode to battle with a white poodle beside him. Nephew to Charles I, and his loyal supporter. He was interested in inventions, had his own forge and laboratory, and encouraged the introduction of mezzotint engraving.

### December 18

Joseph Grimaldi (1779-1837). Famous clown. First appeared at Sadler's Wells as a child dancer. As a boy astonished his friends by collecting four thousand different kinds of flies. His great success was in *Mother Goose* at Covent Garden, especially with a song called *Tippety Witchet*.

### December 19

Sir Ralph Richardson (1902). Actor of stage and screen. Made a great reputation at the Old Vic and the Malvern summer theatre and became recognised as one of the world's great Shakespearean actors.

### December 20

Yvonne Arnaud (1895). Actress. French-born, she came to England and won the heart of the public in many witty and charming performances. She has made many films and is also a very clever pianist.

### December 21

Jean-Henri Fabre (1823-1915). French entomologist. His countrymen called him the



insect's Homer. His ten books on the lives and habits of insects are based on long and careful observation and are written in an easy style which make them a delight to read.

### December 22

Sir Henry Segrave (1896-1930). Racing motorist. Raised the land speed record in 1929 to 231 m.p.h. in his car *The Golden Arrow*. He was killed on Lake Windermere in 1930 after setting up a new water-speed record.



The Children's Newspaper, December 15, 1956

# Drama of the great white whale

By the CN Film Critic

Many people who have never read Herman Melville's famous book *Moby Dick* know something of the story of the great white whale which was so relentlessly pursued by Captain Ahab. The new film with that title tells the story splendidly, and gives magnificent pictures of little whaling ships—and their tiny boats—being tossed about in huge seas.

The story begins in 1840, when a young sailor, Ishmael, goes to New Bedford in Massachusetts and signs on the whaling ship *Pequod*. He does not realise at first what a remarkable ship she is—for she is under the command of the legendary Captain Ahab.



Gregory Peck as Captain Ahab

Captain Ahab is no ordinary whaling skipper. A huge man with wild eyes, a scarred face, and a whalebone leg, he is not really interested in making a good voyage and bringing back valuable whale-oil; he is only passionately determined to have his revenge on the whale that once gave him his wounds and caused the loss of his leg—the great white whale known as *Moby Dick*.

The *Pequod* sails the seas searching for the white whale, sometimes making no attempt to catch ordinary whales. And such is Captain Ahab's obsession that he even refuses to stop when he is asked by the captain of another whaling ship from New Bedford to help in searching for his son, lost overboard.

The *Pequod* sails on, the captain forever searching the sea for his hated enemy. At last the *Pequod* does find *Moby Dick*—and the encounter is tremendous, as you will agree when you see this fine film. I will not spoil your pleasure by describing it, but I can say it is really exciting and breathtaking.

The characters in this film are nearly all people you will remember. The dominating figure is, of course, Captain Ahab himself—and here there is a criticism to make. Gregory Peck is not really dominating enough in the part. He is an odd person, and certainly remarkable to look at, but he ought to be a more terrifying figure. Perhaps, as one or two writers have remarked, the trouble is that he looks rather too much like Abraham Lincoln!

It may be thought that the film takes a long time to "get going." The first half-hour or so introduces us to many of the people concerned in New Bedford itself: we see them in church, listening to a fiery sermon about Jonah by Father Mapple (played by Orson Welles). This is entertaining in a different way.

But once we are aboard the *Pequod* with Ishmael (Richard Basehart) and his new friend, the strangely-tattooed and primitive South Sea islander Queequeg (Friedrich Ledebur), things begin to get lively—and at last, *Moby Dick* makes them very lively indeed.

One thing you will notice about the film is the way colour is used in a style suggesting the coloured prints of the period, a technique which seems far more interesting to look at than the usual colour reproduction. But this is only one of the notable features of a wonderful film you will not soon forget.



The men in one of the little whaling boats cling on desperately as *Moby Dick*, a harpoon in his side, races through the water towing the boat behind him.

# HOW THEY BROUGHT THE GOOD NEWS TO TIBET

TIBETAN is among the 167 languages in which the complete Bible has been printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society. This Tibetan Bible is now being revised, and a special typewriter has been built by a firm at Derby to help with the work. But this is only the latest chapter in a long and wonderful story.

Just over a hundred years ago, two ministers of the Moravian Church were moved to try to take the good news of the Gospels into Tibet. Having travelled to India, they found themselves unable to reach their goal and eventually made their way to a little Kashmir town near the western frontier of Tibet. There they found the key to their quest in a Tibetan who had fled from his native land, an able man named Gergan who agreed to help them by teaching them his language.

For years they laboured, with the faith that moves mountains of difficulties, and finally the four Gospels were prepared and printed.

Gergan did not become a Christian, but his son Yoseb was converted and he grew up resolved to give the people of Tibet the whole Bible in their mother tongue.

Having learned English, Yoseb dedicated himself to his task. For the next 35 years, working with learned missionaries, he devoted all his energies to the work of translation and revision. The completed manuscript was sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society in London. But then the Second World War broke out. Under skies darkened with danger, the precious document was hidden away for safety in the crypt of Ripon Cathedral.

## HIS LIFE'S WORK

When peace came again Yoseb wrote from Kashmir to ask what was happening to his life's work. The Tibetan people, he said, must have their Bible.

The Ripon manuscript was examined again in London, but it was found to be incomplete and for various technical reasons unsuitable for the printer. So it was decided to have a new translation written out by hand and to reproduce this by lithography, a process ordinarily used for the reproduction of pictures.

Thousands of sheets of paper were treated with white of egg and chemicals to turn them into transfers. And on these the aged but undaunted Yoseb, with only three helpers, wrote out the whole Bible by hand. The mighty task was finished on August 16, 1946. Five days later, Yoseb was dead. He had given his all.

The text still had to be printed, so the transfers were taken by mule over the rough tracks to Lahore, 800 miles away, and there a set of proof sheets was prepared and sent back to Kashmir for correction.

These proofs got lost on the way, and a second set had to be

prepared. They arrived safely and were corrected, but on the return journey to Lahore water was spilt on the paper and the corrections became unreadable.

A third set was made ready and sent off, and then the war broke out between India and Pakistan and the road was blocked.

མུ་ཡང་ཁོ་ལ་དག་པོ་དེ་མ་ཤིང་། མཐའ་མེད་པའི་གཞིན་  
པ་ཉིད་ཐོབ་པའི་ཕྱིར། དཀྱིལ་མཚོག་གིས་ཉིད་ཀྱི་སྐུ་སྐུ་གཅིག་  
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མཛད་པ་ཡིན།

An extract from the Tibetan Bible : St. John 3. 16

One of the translators volunteered to try to get through, carrying 40 pounds of manuscript and proofs on his back through the snows. He managed to dodge the Pakistani patrols but was at last stopped by Indian soldiers. Other, almost unbelievable, adventures followed, but at last the faithful translator was rescued.

The Tibetan Bible was printed and every copy sold—sold even to the lamas in their Buddhist monasteries deep in the interior.

And now a revised edition is being prepared for further conquest among the mountains of resistance.

# SILVER LINING

Many children of Leven, Fife-shire, take the long route to school. From every corner of the town they assemble each day at a wooden hut by a level crossing to hand over silver paper to the gatekeeper, Harry Robertson.

He lost a foot in a railway accident in 1937 and was off work for seven years, so to occupy his time, his family collected tinfoil—"silver paper"—and he spent hours rolling it into smooth, round balls weighing about two lb. each, for the local hospital. At last he managed to get back to work, but still kept on with his hobby and now depends for much of his supply on the faithful children of Leven.

Harry estimates that since he began collecting silver paper ten years ago he has given two tons of it to Alloa County Hospital.

## BRIDGE MADE TO MEASURE

An old railway bridge at Staveley, Derbyshire, was replaced in ten hours recently on the main line from London to Sheffield. Weighing 60 tons and costing £20,000, it was built to measure and moved into position as a whole unit on rollers.

Only six trains had to be diverted.

## PORTABLE RADAR

The United States Army have developed a radar set which can be carried by one man. Set and generator weigh about 85 lb. in a metal case 14 inches square, and give a range of 3½ miles.

Instead of a visual signal the set gives a warning note when it detects either a vehicle or a soldier.



## View of London

Outside the railings of Buckingham Palace a Swiss artist paints the scene looking towards the Victoria Memorial. This is where, on many a historic occasion, the crowds have waited to see Royalty come out on to the balcony.



## THE DORMOUSE THAT DINES AT MIDNIGHT

Strange rumblings and bumps in the lofts of old houses in Hertfordshire and Bucks have been traced to England's rarest rodent, the glis-glis, or squirrel-tailed dormouse. This is a pretty little animal which loves midnight feasts among apple stores in such places, but in Britain is found only in a limited area of Herts and Bucks, where a colony numbering probably not more than 400 is descended from a pair released in Tring Park in 1902 by Lord Rothschild.

While apples are the favourite food of the glis-glis, they also eat acorns, nuts, and berries. They hibernate during the winter, after thoroughly fattening themselves up, and generally become active again in April.

### DELIGHTFUL PETS

Much bigger than our native dormouse, this immigrant apple-chaser is about six inches long, and has a bushy tail some five inches in length. It is silver-grey in colour, has small ears, and bright brown eyes surrounded by black rings.

Glis-glis turns out to be the edible dormouse so greatly fancied by the Romans. They used to fatten these little creatures on chestnuts and serve them up with honey. That must seem a very unpleasant idea to the modern glis-glis fancier. For squirrel-tailed dormice make delightful pets, being easily tamed and having trustful natures.

### LAUNCHED BY CHILDREN

The four sons of the managing director of a Wallsend shipyard, aged between five and 15 years, will each name a new barge when it is launched on the Tyne.

Recently the same yard saw the new motor-coaster Heathergate named and launched by a 16-year-old girl, Annabelle Jenkins.

## Sporting Flashbacks

THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICA V. ENGLAND TEST MATCH OF THE 1905-06 SEASON

WAS ALSO THE FIRST TEST MATCH IN WHICH

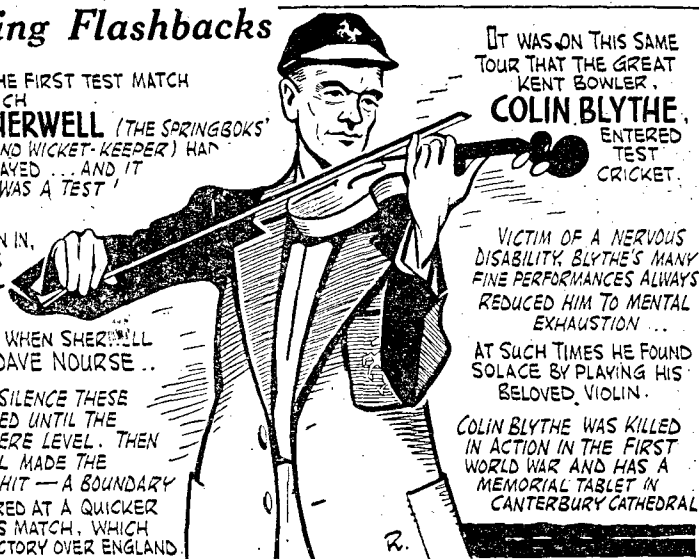
PERCY SHERWELL (THE SPRINGBOKS' CAPTAIN AND WICKET-KEEPER) HAD EVER PLAYED... AND IT REALLY WAS A TEST!



LAST MAN IN, 45 RUNS WERE STILL REQUIRED FOR VICTORY WHEN SHERWELL JOINED DAVE NOURSE...

IN TENSE SILENCE THESE TWO BATTED UNTIL THE SCORES WERE LEVEL. THEN SHERWELL MADE THE WINNING HIT — A BOUNDARY

DESPITE THE SITUATION, RUNS WERE SCORED AT A QUICKER RATE THAN AT ANY OTHER STAGE OF THIS MATCH, WHICH GAVE THE SOUTH AFRICANS THEIR FIRST VICTORY OVER ENGLAND.



IT WAS ON THIS SAME TOUR THAT THE GREAT KENT BOWLER, COLIN BLYTHE, ENTERED TEST CRICKET.

VICTIM OF A NERVOUS DISABILITY, BLYTHE'S MANY FINE PERFORMANCES ALWAYS REDUCED HIM TO MENTAL EXHAUSTION...

AT SUCH TIMES HE FOUND SOLACE BY PLAYING HIS BELOVED VIOLIN.

COLIN BLYTHE WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND HAS A MEMORIAL TABLET IN CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

## REPORT ON WILD LIFE

## BIRDS OF THE HUMP-BACKED ISLAND

BARDSEY is a little island with a hump on its back, lying off the Welsh coast at the north end of Cardigan Bay, and it is linked by a narrow isthmus to a smaller island where a powerful lighthouse lures migratory birds.

It is a great place for bird-watchers and many of them have visited the island during recent weeks to study the autumn migration, either at the ringing traps or at the lighthouse.

Among the rarer bird visitors to Bardsey this autumn have been Siberian chiffchaffs, warblers, Lapland buntings, woodchats, wry-necks, tree-creepers, cross bills, and black terns. These did not, of course, lessen the interest in commoner birds, like the parties of

blue tits and single great tits which visited the island in October, the buzzards, pied flycatchers, and Arctic skuas; as well as a sparrowhawk which caught a storm-petrel just after the bird had been ringed and released on the island.

During the nesting season a number of young shearwaters were killed when the earth over their nesting-burrows collapsed owing to the constant summer rains. Also a stray cat from one of the farms caught several of the storm-petrels, which also nest on the island.

Bird-migration extends over a very wide front, and a young British ornithologist now serving with the British Army has been making a special study of birds travelling southwards past the Hook of Holland. On one day, at the peak of migration along the coastline and sand-dunes, he estimated that between 10,000 and 11,000 chaffinches, and between 8,000 and 9,000 starlings, passed that way, as well as over a thousand skylarks and several hundred meadow-pipits, linnetts, blue tits,

grey crows, jackdaws, and buntings.

Smaller numbers of great tits and marsh-tits were also noted in the migration, together with a few jays among the jackdaws and a sparrowhawk chasing the chaffinches. A week later there



The buzzard

were still thousands of chaffinches and starlings on the wing, together with hundreds of redwings and bramblings. Meanwhile, on the other side of the sea, in Kent and East Anglia, bird watchers hope to see the black-bellied dipper, which differs from our native dipper of the western hill-streams in having black instead of chestnut colour beneath the ivory-white breast. Among the places the black-bellied dipper visits in winter are Aylsham Mill, Norfolk, and Sandwich in Kent. E. H.

## THIS PLANET ON WHICH WE LIVE

If ever a book has deserved the adjective "breathtaking," that book is *The World We Live In*, published by Collins at four guineas. So magnificent is it that the reviewer is at a loss to know how to do it justice.

The story it tells is no less than the story of this planet Earth from its very beginning, millions of years ago, perhaps in a cloud of cosmic dust. It is the story of the shaping of this planet; of its forests, oceans, deserts, and polar wastes; of the evolution of life. It is an awe-inspiring story, unfolded with a wealth of pictures and descriptions by a great company of scientists.

Any boy or girl turning the pages of this wonderful book will be enthralled by the pictures—hundreds of them in beautiful colour.

### STRANGE FORMS OF LIFE

It would be a very dull child indeed who was not thrilled by the artist's impression of the infant Earth bounding red-hot through space or of the Earth when rivers of molten stone flowed across it, and fountains of water vapour hissed and sizzled through its volcanic crevices.

Other superb pictures accompany the descriptions of evolution. We are shown the strange forms of life in primeval seas; the giant reptiles lording it in a strange volcanic world; the prehistoric mammals in primeval forests, fear-some creatures all.

Because of its price, this wonderful book is not one that many of our readers can be expected to buy; but it is certainly one that all boys and girls would like to be able to look at and to study, at school, or in their local libraries.

## DEERSLAYER—new picture-version of Fenimore Cooper's famous frontier yarn (2)

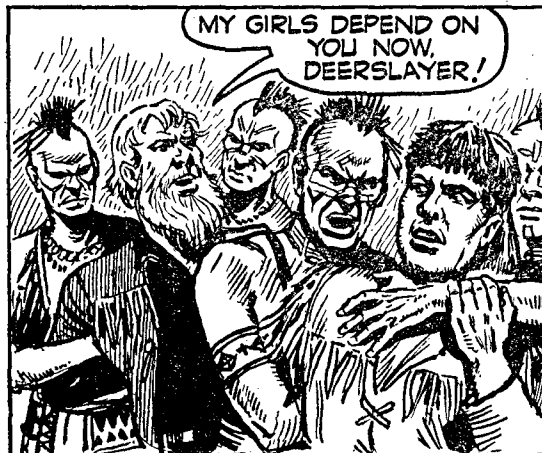
Deerslayer was a young white frontiersman who had come to Lake Glimmerglass to meet an Indian friend. With Deerslayer was Harry Hurry who wanted to marry

Judith, one of the two daughters of Tom Hutter, who lived in a hut called "Muskrat Castle," built on piles in the lake. The two visitors found that the Hutter family had gone

up a creek in their boat, the Ark, to examine their traps. As the party returned in the vessel, Deerslayer spotted Indians waiting to pounce on them from a tree.



Judith and her sister took refuge in the Ark's cabin, and the three men pulled with all their force on the rope attached to the anchor out in the lake. The extra momentum this gave to the craft caused all the Indians save one to miss when they jumped and they fell in the creek. The man who landed on the deck was dazed for the moment and bold Judith ran out and pushed him overboard. Safely out on the lake, they hauled up the anchor and the three men rowed the Ark back to Muskrat Castle.



That night old Tom and Harry went ashore to take the scalps of Indians in a camp they believed was occupied only by women and children. They sought the bounty paid for scalps by the government during the Indian war. But they were captured by braves. Judith and Hetty had been disgusted at their father's inhuman enterprise, and Deerslayer, too, had refused to help. But he had come as far as the shore to set adrift two canoes, to prevent the Indians using them. As he was led away, Tom called despairingly to Deerslayer.



Deerslayer, still in his canoe, could do nothing to help them. He returned with the tragic news to Hutter's daughters, whom he must now defend alone. Next morning he set out to collect the two canoes and saw that one of them had drifted ashore. As he cautiously approached the bank he was unaware that a concealed Indian had been watching him and was now aiming at him.



The Indian fired and missed, then ran behind a tree to reload. Deerslayer leapt ashore with his loaded musket, but was too chivalrous to take advantage of the other. When the man reappeared, the white youth shouted: "This-a-way, Redskin, if you're looking for me!" He hoped to make peace with him. The Indian looked astonished.

What will be the outcome of Deerslayer's meeting with the Redskin? See next week's instalment



## DRAMA ON THE RIVER

## CHASE THE CONWAYS

by Geoffrey Morgan

Roger Lawton has stumbled on a plot to kidnap the young Prince of Ethiania, and the plotters falsely accuse him of mutiny. Jerry and Jane Conway are helping him to escape, but on the train they suspect two men are following them. Jerry tries to shake them off by leaving the train at one of the stations and then getting on again. They do this but Jane realises that she has left her bag in the dining-car. Then Jerry discovers that one of the two men is still on the train.

## 9. Third time lucky

Jerry stood there for a moment peering through the glass panel of the door, shocked and disappointed that his ruse had only half-succeeded; but he was not left hesitating for long. Jane nudged him in the back.

"Say, what's keeping you, Jerry?" she demanded. "Why don't we go in?" She tried to look over his shoulder into the dining-car, but he turned and pushed her back against Roger.

"Get back," Jerry whispered, "into the next carriage. One of them is still on the train. He's just come into the dining-car."

"Oh—my!" gasped Jane, edging back reluctantly. "What about my bag?"

"We'll just have to hope the lady sitting next to you spotted it and handed it in," Jerry replied.

"Was there anything important in it?" asked Roger when they paused to consider the situation at the head of the corridor of the next carriage.

"Well, the sandwiches, my toothbrush, some money and a few odds and ends—" She broke off, her face anxious. "Say—yes, Jerry, I think my diary was in it, too. Oh—my, and that's got my name and address in it!"

"Gosh, if he's got hold of that it has torn it," Jerry retorted.

"I don't see why he should pick it up if it's still on the seat next to the old lady," Roger pointed out reasonably. He looked at Jerry. "You're sure it was one of the men who's been tailing us?"

## Playing safe

"Certain. Recognised him at once."

"But we saw them getting off," argued Jane hopefully.

"We saw them in the act of getting off," Jerry corrected her. "But we didn't see them after that. Either they saw us get on again and they both jumped aboard again themselves, or they partly guessed our action and played safe."

"You mean one went out of the station in case we had really gone and the other decided to keep on the train and search it between here and Ipswich?" Roger spoke slowly, his face looking strained and pale under the corridor light.

Jerry nodded. "I can't think

of any other reason for there being only one of them now," he said.

"Heck," moaned Jane. "What d'you figure on doing then?"

"Get your handbag first—somehow," Roger suggested. "Then perhaps we could really get off at the next station?"

"That gives me another idea."

For a moment Jerry's face brightened, and then went dull again as he continued: "But we can't do anything till we see what's happened to your blessed bag, Jane."

"Well, I guess if I could attract the steward's attention—" she began hesitantly.

"You stay with Roger. I'll have a shot at that," he decided



Jerry outlines the plan of escape promptly, and abruptly turned away and disappeared through the coupling. He was gone only two or three minutes, and when he reappeared he was triumphantly clutching the missing bag.

"You ought to have it tied round your neck!" he said, placing it in her eager hands.

Jane went quickly through the contents.

"That's fine, Jerry—just fine," she murmured gratefully. "How did you get it?"

"Did you go right in?" Roger asked curiously.

## Losing their shadow

"Yes. He'd gone. I just asked the steward and he produced the bag. Like you said, Roger, the old lady saw it after we left and handed it in."

"Good for her," Jane said, and then uneasily demanded: "But where's our shadow? You say he'd left the dining-car?"

"He wasn't there when I went in. I made sure of that. Probably gone to comb the other half of the train."

"Thank Jupiter he didn't start this way," Roger said. "But what about your idea, Jerry?"

"Let's get up to the front first," he suggested. "I'd like to put as many carriages between us and our shadow as possible."

Silently they followed him along the corridors of the coaches until they came to a compartment which was empty. Jane and Roger sat down, but Jerry remained standing

in the doorway so that he had the length of the corridor under observation.

"Now this is the drill," he began. "Manningtree is the next stop and it can't be many minutes away. Provided we can hold out here without being seen we should be able to give Hassan's henchman the slip for good this time."

"You mean go on to Manningbury by road somehow?" Jane suggested quickly.

"No. Just change trains," he answered. "The Harwich local should be waiting at the station. We skip across the platform and into it. Our follower probably won't know anything about the train connection. He'll be watching out—if he watches at all—to see who goes out at the exit." He paused to glance down the corridor. "So we get on the Harwich train," he continued, his confidence growing. "But hop out at Marsh Halt."

## Gull Point

"Marsh Halt?" repeated Jane, frowning. "But that's on the Stour estuary, isn't it? What's the idea—getting off there?"

"I thought you knew Alf Willis lived there—or rather at Gull Point, on the shore."

"Oh, sure, Gull Point," Jane recalled. "Guess I didn't connect the two places at first."

"Who's Alf Willis?" Roger asked.

"A chap we know well," Jerry explained. "He's sailed as Mate aboard the Mirelda on odd occasions. But he spends most of his time fishing. By the time we get there tonight he'll just about be setting out on one of his trips. He'll give us a passage to Langford Quay and from there we can get a bus practically to Pin Mill. From there the last leg is easy. I'll borrow Mr. Watson's dinghy and we can row down to the Maridella off Eastfleet inside ten minutes."

"Phew—my!" exclaimed Jane. "What a tour!"

"Sounds nice and confusing," Roger smiled broadly, and looked happy for the first time that evening.

"Provided we can get into the Harwich train without being spotted," Jerry said brightly, "we should, so far as our shadow's concerned, just vanish without trace."

## Successful escape

The fast, steady rhythm of the train began to change as it approached the down-run to the station and a few minutes later the brakes were applied and they were slowing to a stop between the platforms.

"So far, so good," murmured Jerry, and stood ready by the door. "You know the routine. As soon as we stop just follow me."

Jerry's strategy for their final

Continued on page 10

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## LOOKING AT THE SKY

# VENUS AND SATURN CLOSE TOGETHER

VENUS and Saturn will present an interesting spectacle in the morning sky in the course of the next fortnight.

The two planets are in the south-east as dawn breaks, Venus rising first at about 5 a.m. Although not likely to be perceptible above the early morning mists until near 5.30, Venus will be immediately recognised near the horizon by its silvery radiance.

Saturn rises very near to the same place but not until about 6.30 a.m. and so is not likely to be observable until close upon 7 a.m. The Sun does not rise until between 8 and 8.40 a.m. in the different areas of Britain, so there will be ample time to get a glimpse of Saturn as a "morning star" before day breaks.

Jupiter can also be seen in the morning sky, but as it rises in the east between 12 and 1 a.m. it travels upwards to a point almost due south by 6 o'clock.

Venus and Saturn will be of particular interest for the next fortnight because Venus will gradually approach Saturn. At present, Saturn appears some way below and to the left of Venus, and is not so readily found, for it appears only about one-third as bright. But during the next few days Saturn will rise earlier and become more in evidence.

### GRADUAL APPROACH

Then the two worlds may be seen to gradually approach each other until, by the mornings of December 26 and 27, Venus and Saturn will be little more than the width of the Moon apart.

As observed from the Earth, Saturn will appear to pass above Venus, though actually this effect is the result of perspective, a vast distance separates these worlds.

Venus is much the nearer to us, being now about 144 million miles away and receding at an average rate of about 220 miles

a minute. Saturn, however, is coming nearer—very slowly, though, for at present it is almost at the farthest point of its orbit from us (about 1005 million miles away) and not approaching us direct.

After their coming conjunction, as astronomers say, Saturn will be seen to better advantage as it rises earlier and travels away to the right from Venus.

### DIFFERENCE IN COLOUR

If observed while the sky is dark, some of the bright stars of Scorpius, the Scorpion, may be seen round about, as indicated in our star-map. Even the giant sun Antares may be glimpsed very low down near the horizon and readily identified by its reddish tint. And on the morning of December 29 the crescent Moon will be added to this rare starry spectacle.

Meanwhile, Saturn will continue to rise earlier and attain a better position in the south-east sky. During Saturn's apparent proximity to Venus, we shall easily detect the difference in colour between the two worlds, which is caused by the totally different composition of the atmospheres and the dense cloud-envelopes of the two planets. G. F. M.

### PARTY PIECES

If you want to make sure that your Christmas party goes with a swing you could hardly do better than spend half-a-crown on The Children's Party and Games Book, by Joyce Nicholson (Epworth Press).

It is a most attractive little book, describing over 100 games and giving some useful hints on planning, as well as different kinds of special parties—a doll party, a cowboy party, an animal party, and so on.

Two companion books at the same price by Joyce Nicholson remind us that variety is the spice of a good party as it is of life. Successful Parties and Social Evenings is the title of one; the other is Games, Competitions, and Quizzes.

## CHASE THE CONWAYS

Continued from page 9

escape proved to be the most successful of the three desperate ideas they had put into practice that night. The journey with the chest had aroused suspicion, the off-and-on manoeuvre on the train had shaken off only one of their pursuers; but the final decision of changing trains and finishing their flight by boat and bus and then by boat again appeared to accomplish its object smoothly and with less worry and effort than either of the first two attempts.

The impromptu plan went off with the timing and precision of an army manoeuvre, and before eleven o'clock that night they were swinging alongside the white, graceful hull of Uncle Alec's Bermudian sloop, moored just down-river from the Eastfleet yacht

club. The river was deserted save for two or three other unoccupied yachts in the vicinity, and the only lights on shore came from the bedroom windows of the inn.

They clambered aboard the Maridella, and it was as Jerry accidentally stubbed his toe against the bosun's locker abaft the cockpit that he suddenly remembered he had left on the train a clue to their whereabouts. The lid of the locker came off and the tools and gear inside reminded him of the contents he had taken out of the sea chest so that Roger could get into it. And they had left the chest on the train. Supposing their pursuer, having lost them, stole a look at it? He would find it empty, but it had Jerry's name and address inside!

To be continued

The Children's Newspaper, December 15, 1956

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## MAKING FOR MARS?



Jimmy's looking ahead. He's made himself a space suit and hopes it won't be long before he can take off for Mars. But unlike Jimmy, there are thousands of boys and girls from unhappy homes, cared for by the League of Pity, who can't go far without your help. These children's future happiness and success still largely depend on the pennies you save and send to the League of Pity. You can help them by joining the League. Just fill in the coupon below and send it in with a 2/6 postal order. In return you will get a Blue Bird membership badge and, on loan, a Blue Egg in which to put your League savings.

### SEND YOUR COUPON NOW

TO THE LEAGUE OF PITY, VICTORY HOUSE, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.2.

Please enrol me as a member.

I enclose P.O. for 2/6

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS



# SPORTS SHORTS

THE Australian Rugby League players who have been in Britain since early October, complete their tour on Saturday when they play the third and final Test Match against Great Britain, at Swinton, Lancashire. This game should decide the rubber, each side having won one Test.

## Twins in training



So alike that they have to run in different-coloured clothes, the Frazer sisters of Wallington, Surrey, are identical twins. Their talents are identical, too, for both are fine runners.

CRICKETERS in England spend a lot of time waiting for the rain to stop, and Jim Laker and Tony Lock sometimes fill in the time by playing darts in the dressing room. The M.C.C. team in South Africa having "taken the rain with them," the Rhodesian batsman Paul Winslow thought an appropriate gift to the Surrey stars would be—a dartboard, of course.

LIKE many professional footballers, Huddersfield centre-half Ken Taylor also plays cricket during the summer (with Yorkshire). But Ken, who is 21, has a third string to his bow—he is also an artist. Now on a two-year art course in London, Ken intends to combine his sport with his art and later on to earn money painting portraits or by teaching.

## Holiday-winner

IN 1953 Walter d'Hondt left the John Fisher School at Purley when his parents emigrated to Canada. Now he has earned the pupils there a day's holiday. The headmaster gave this news when word came that oarsmen of the University of British Columbia had won the coxless fours event in the Olympic Games and that Walter was a member of the crew.

## Freddie's festival

AN amusing story about Freddie Mills, the former world-champion boxer, was told recently in the Sporting Record. It seems that when he was a schoolboy, young Freddie was a member of his school choir. While practising for a local festival, however, he was found to be off-key and was made to sing with the girls' choir for a fortnight. But when the time came for him to sing with the boys at the festival he found that he did not know their songs; so he took his place in the choir and opened and shut his mouth "like a fish." What's more, he won a certificate.

## Showing him how



Young John Hughes of Dulwich in the capable hands of Alf Gover, ex-England and Surrey bowler, at his cricket school in South London.

## C N Competition Corner

### SOME EXTRA POCKET-MONEY!

HERE is a good opportunity to win some extra pocket-money. Cash prizes of £1 are waiting for the five winners of this week's special Christmas painting competition. If you are under 17, and live in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, or the Channel Islands, enter now! It's free!

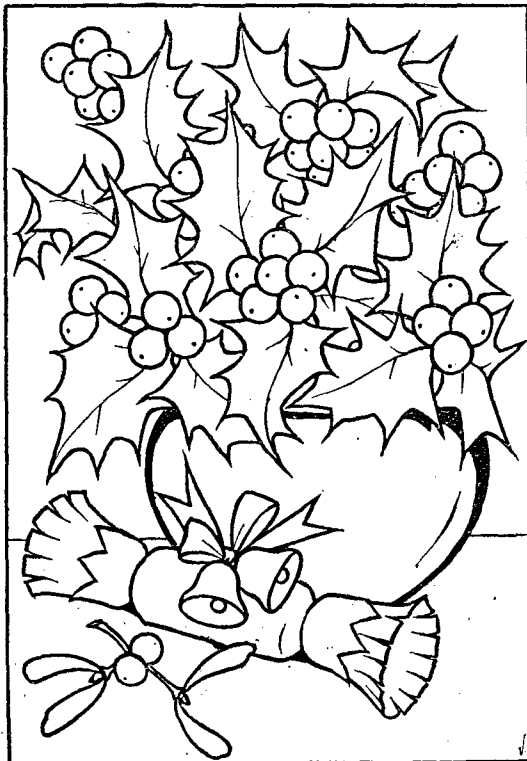
To try for a prize, simply colour the picture here with paints or crayons. First, however, cut out the picture and coupon, paste on to a postcard or piece of stiff paper, and allow to dry.

When the colouring is finished, fill in your name, age, and address on the coupon, ask an adult to sign it as your own work, and post to:

C N Competition  
No. 4,  
3 Pilgrim Street,  
London, E.C.4  
(Comp.),

to arrive by Friday, December 21, the closing date.

Pocket-money prizes of £1 will be awarded for each of the five best entries, according to age. 5s. Postal Orders for the ten next best. The Editor's decision is final.



This colouring is entirely my own work

Full Name..... Age.....

Your Address.....

Parent/Guardian's Signature.....

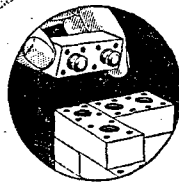
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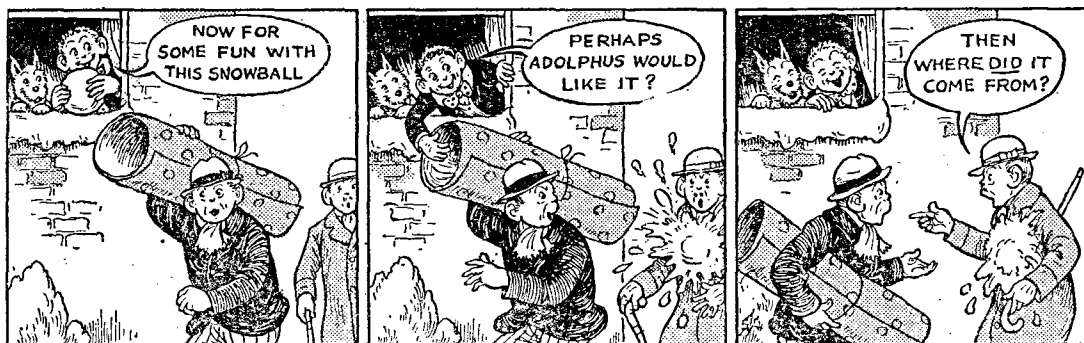
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## JACKO'S SNOWBALL MAKES A DIRECT HIT



### LOOK FOR THIS CONIFER

OUR first is found in sycamore, but not in juniper;  
Our second is in copper beech, but not in larch or fir.  
Our third is found in guelder rose, but not in lime or may;  
Our fourth in mountain ash is seen, and also found in bay.  
Our fifth is in wayfaring tree, which often grows alone;  
Our whole—a spreading evergreen, which bears a round-topped cone.

### RIDDLE IN RHYME

IF you look at me each day,  
I will help you on your way.  
You'll never be late for lunch or tea,  
If only you will follow me.

### WHO IS HE?

CAN you name a country gentleman who, when beheaded, would become a quantity of paper?

The answers to these puzzles are given in column 5

### COMMON QUESTION

WHAT have bladderwrack, bladderlock, and knotted wrack in common?

### FRACTION OF A PUZZLE

CAN you make the name of a great mountain by taking a quarter of male, three-quarters of very, a third of eel, and half of stun?

### Crossword puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Young sheep. 4 Fragile. 7 It supports a blackboard. 9 Negative. 11 Ceremony. 13 Sag. 15 Noise. 16 Greyish-brown. 17 Through. 18 Animal doctor. 19 Foundations. 21 Beginning. 23 Perform. 24 Lowest point. 26 Ova. 27 Restaurant.

READING DOWN. 1 To make a loan. 2 Myself. 3 Title. 4 Soaked with water. 5 Escapes. 6 Oven. 8 Drink slowly. 10 Command. 12 Ventilated. 14 Pleasure trip. 17 Fright. 18 We do this at election time. 19 Offer. 20 Painful. 22 Vapour. 25 Royal Academy.

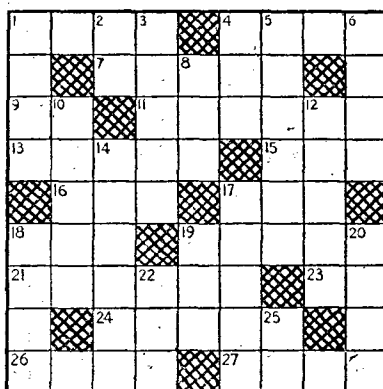
### LONDON STREETS

CAN you trace these well-known streets in the City of London?

STREET of the heavy building.  
Entrance for churchmen.  
Dogs might splash about in this.  
It consists of food and water.  
Might go off with a bang.

### CATCH QUESTION

WHEN do birds in a nest quarrel?



Answer next week

### PARTY GAME

SEND one player out of the room.  
Those inside are going to keep a shop. Having decided on the kind of shop, they each pick an article which would be sold in that shop.

The player outside is now called into the room, and on a signal all the others at the same moment shout the name of their article. He has to guess what shop it is. Let him have three tries. Then send out another player.

Suggested shops are: Grocer, draper, chemist, fruiterer, radio dealer.

### ELF WHO LIVED BY HIMSELF

THERE was a small elf  
Who lived by himself  
In a toadstool house  
The size of a mouse.

His friends were an owl  
And a guinea fowl  
Who had a white cat  
And a large black bat.

They lived on honey,  
Brought by a bunny,  
Sent by a bee,  
Who this tale told me.

### SAMMY SIMPLE

"FIVE shilling postal order, please," said Sam, "and three shillings' worth of ditto."  
So saying, he showed the counter clerk his list. It read:  
Postal order 5s.  
ditto 3s.

## BEDTIME TALE

### WENDY WANTED TO HELP

WHEN the hard frosts came in December, Wendy wanted to help her friends the garden birds. So she put out chopped bread and bacon rind, and mixed bird seed on the bird table, and hung suet and half a coconut from branches for the tits. "Now everyone will find something he likes," she said.

The robin came, and the sparrows, a cock chaffinch, a blackbird, and a thrush with round spots over his chest only, so Wendy knew he was a song, and not a missel thrush.

Of course the greedy speckled starlings came, and the great tit with his black-striped waistcoat joined the little blue tits. Then Wendy said: "Good! That is everyone." But a second later she said: "No, it isn't. Jenny Wren is not here."

And though Jenny was hunting without luck under the garden hedges, she did not come to the bird table.

"Maybe there is nothing she

likes," said Wendy. "I will look in the bird book to find out her favourite food."

Chiefly small spiders and insects, it said.

Well, Wendy was searching the bushes and walls with no luck either, when Mummy came out and said: "Supposing you help me

now, and fetch some of those apple tree prunings Daddy has stacked in the shed for kindling."

Wendy went to collect an armful. And out came gnats and a spider!

She hurried indoors, calling: "Mummy, may I put a little stack of kindling in the corner for

Jenny? There are lots of insects under the bark. And Jenny won't come to the bird table."

"Wrens never do," said Mummy.

Then soon Jenny had her own private little bird table. And while the frost lasted she sometimes used it as a cosy bedroom, too.

JANE THORNICROFT

### THE MEMORY BOX

"OLD ladies forget," said little Sue,  
"I've heard it said, and I think it's true."  
"Why, yes, indeed you are right," said I.  
"And if you listen, I'll tell you why."

"My Memory Box is kept up here, And thoughts collect there, year by year. They are packed up tight—so tight in my head It takes a long time to find them," I said.

"And if, some day, you are old like Gran, Just try to remember them all, if you can."

### CUTTING COMMENT

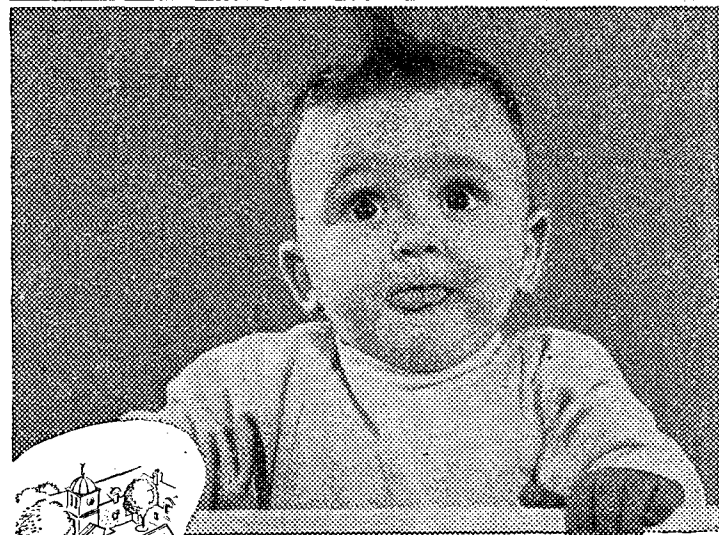
CUSTOMER: "Are you the chap who cut my hair last time?"  
Hairdresser: "No, sir. I've only been here four months."

### QUIZ CORNER ANSWERS

- Cockroach.
24. "Quire" is from Quaer, old form of the French word cahier, an exercise book.
- A stool or chair on the end of a pole projecting over pond or river and working on a pivot. In olden days scolding women were tied to the stool and ducked.
- The cotton plant.
- The Unknown Warrior's, in Westminster Abbey.
- Queen Elizabeth I. The name was given to her from Gloriana the Faerie Queene of Edmund Spenser's poem.

### ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Look for this conifer. Cedar  
Riddle in rhyme. A clock  
Who is he? Squire, quire  
Common question. They are names of seaweeds  
Fraction of a puzzle. Everest  
London streets. Leadenhall Street, Bishopsgate, Houndsditch, Liverpool Street, Cannon Street.  
Catch question. When they fall out



## Captain of his side - 1976

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